

Claims

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A cutter bar for cutting debris away from the track of a track-laying vehicle comprising:
 - a bracket having a mounting flange and a knife flange, the mounting flange and the knife flange each having a plurality of fastener apertures;
 - a knife having a cutting edge and a plurality of fastener apertures corresponding to the fastener apertures of the knife flange of the bracket, the knife being removably fastened to the knife flange of the bracket by a plurality of fasteners that will shear when a pre-selected force is applied to them and the bracket being removably fastened to a vehicle structure such that the cutting edge of the knife is disposed proximal to both a drive wheel of the vehicle and an endless track of the vehicle for cutting debris entrained between the drive wheel and the endless track wherein if tough debris contacts the knife the pre-selected force will be overcome and some of the fasteners will shear permitting the knife to pivot out of the way of the debris.
2. A cutter bar as described in claim 1, wherein the fastener apertures of the knife flange are elongated so that the position of the knife can be adjusted relative to the bracket.
3. A cutter bar as described in claim 1 wherein a center line of the bracket and knife are disposed at a 45 degree angle to the ground the center line passing in close proximity to a center axis of the drive wheel of the vehicle.
4. A cutter bar as described in claim 1 wherein the bracket is mounted to a drawbar support structure of a tracked vehicle.

5. A cutter bar as described in claim 1 wherein the cutter bar is symmetrical about a center line of the vehicle and can thus be used on either side of the vehicle.
6. A cutter bar as described in claim 1 wherein the knife and bracket are removably mounted to the vehicle structure by way of a pillow block which has been affixed to the vehicle structure, the pillow block having a plurality of threaded apertures corresponding to the fastener apertures of the mounting flange of the bracket.
7. A cutter bar as described in claim 4 wherein the knife and bracket are removably mounted to the drawbar support structure by way of a pillow block which has been affixed to the drawbar support structure, the pillow block having a plurality of threaded apertures corresponding to the fastener apertures of the mounting flange of the bracket.
8. A cutter bar as described in claim 1 wherein the cutting edge of the knife is adjustably spaced 3-10 mm from an inside surface of the endless track.